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## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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### **This information was distributed to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Legislative Committee on July 24, 2006.**

In the December 2005 special legislative session, the Montana legislature provided significant resources to schools to meet the goal of Indian Education for all Montana students. For FY 2007, a total of \$10 million is appropriated to schools of which \$3 million will be distributed to the school district general fund and \$7 million will be distributed to the school district miscellaneous program fund. As the state's chief state school officer and an advocate for Indian Education for all Montana students, I am concerned that the funding provided to schools be used to teach K-12 students and their teachers about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive manner.

I would like to share information with you about the data that the Office of Public Instruction will be collecting from schools in October 2006 regarding their planned use of these monies and in September 2007 regarding their actual expenditure of these monies. This will provide a good deal of information on how local school districts are spending their new funding to implement Indian Education for All that suits their context and community.

This information will be available to assist policymakers in making future decisions about activities and appropriations for Indian Education.

#### Annual Data Collection

The Annual Data Collection (ADC) takes place every Fall and collects and reports a variety of non-fiscal data used in school accreditation and state and federal reporting. The OPI collected data regarding Indian Education during Fall 2004 and Fall 2005. Summaries of those reports can be found at

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/IndianEd/IndEd/04ADCSummary.pdf> and  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/IndianEd/SummaryADC2005.pdf>.

The questions in those two collection times focused on districts' efforts to implement Indian Education For All and defined areas where the OPI could best concentrate its technical assistance activities.

With the introduction of the new funding, however, there is a need to switch gears and ask questions that are more focused on local districts' use of this new appropriation.

*"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."*

While the Fall 2006 ADC will still inform the OPI as to how to best assist local districts with their Indian Education For All implementation efforts, there are also several questions that will inquire both about districts' use of their new Indian Education For All funding and districts' use of their Indian student achievement funding. All of the new questions are attached, however, the new questions that emphasize accountability for the 2005 Legislative appropriation are outlined as follows:

- What are your district's plans for using the FY 2007 Indian Education for All funding? Check all that apply.

☐ Professional development  
☐ Purchase textbooks/CDs/DVDs  
☐ Purchase library books/CDs/DVDs  
☐ Field trips  
☐ Presenters/Guest speakers  
☐ Hire teachers/staff specifically to deal with Indian Education For All  
☐ Curriculum review and/or development

- What activities has your school implemented thus far with the Indian Education for All funding received? Include specific information such as names of professional development attended, books/CDs/DVDs purchased, field trips taken, presenters/guest speakers, staff hired, curriculum reviewed or developed, etc. (5,000 character field)
- Are you working with other school districts to implement Indian Education for All? If yes, under what circumstances? Check all that apply.

☐ Not working with other school districts

☐ Professional development  
☐ Purchase textbooks/CDs/DVDs  
☐ Purchase library books/CDs/DVDs  
☐ Field trips  
☐ Presenters/Guest speakers  
☐ Hire teachers/Staff specifically to work at integrating Indian Education For All  
☐ Curriculum review and/or development

- What are your district's plans for using the FY 2007 American Indian Student Achievement funding? Check all that apply.

☐ Not applicable as there are no American Indian students enrolled in our school  
☐ Professional development  
☐ Presenters/Guest speakers  
☐ Purchase textbooks/CDs/DVDs

- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase library books/CDs/DVDs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Field trips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hire teachers/staff specifically to work at closing the achievement gap between Indian and non-Indian students
- \_\_\_\_\_ Incorporate programs and services specifically to work at closing the achievement gap between Indian and non-Indian students
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide student incentives (i.e., attendance, honor roll, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tutoring or other after-school programs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer credit recovery programs or materials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop/implement drop out programs or materials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop/implement summer school programs or materials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Curriculum review and/or development to integrate culturally relevant curriculum into classrooms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

### Financial Reporting

School districts are required to provide an annual accounting to the Office of Public Instruction for the expenditure of the Indian Education for All payments. OPI has created a new accounting code (Program 365) for school districts to use when reporting expenditures for Indian Education for All. In workshops conducted this month with school business officials, OPI staff have instructed school personnel to use this new program code to report any expenditure related to Indian Education for All in any school district fund. In September 2007, school districts will submit year-end reports to OPI indicating the total amount expended in Program 365 and the nature of the expenditure following the chart of accounts in the Montana School Accounting Manual.

For example, we will know how the monies were spent among the following "expenditure objects": personal services, purchased services, supplies and materials, property and equipment acquisition, or other expenditures. We will also know how the monies are spent among six broad functional areas, including instruction, support services, operation of non-educational services, facility acquisition and construction services, debt service, and other financing uses.

The Legislature can rest assured that the OPI is well aware that fulfilling this Constitutional promise that lay neglected for 34 years will take time, focused effort, and accountability for all implementation efforts. Given that the appropriation goes directly into local districts' general fund, the information collected through the Annual Data Collection and the financial reporting system, working in concert, provides the best opportunity to determine how local districts are spending their new funding to implement Indian Education For All that best suits their context and community. It also allows local districts that are receiving Indian student achievement funds to explain how they are using that appropriation.